
The United States Navy on the World Wide Web
A service of the Navy Office of Information, Washington DC
send feedback/questions to comments@chinfo.navy.mil
The United States Navy web site is found on the Internet at
<http://www.navy.mil>

Navy & Marine Corps Medical News
#02-26
June 28, 2002

Federal Officials Announce Anthrax Vaccine Policy
Navy Surgeon General: Anthrax Vaccine Safe and Best Option For Protection
Muddy Boots In Place of Honor at Gulfport Medical Clinic
Navy Medicine Researcher Wins Atlantic Fleet Pistol Championship
Navy Doc Helps Recover Civil War's Monitor
Navy Medicine's Lockette Is Wilkins Award Recipient
Bethesda Nurse Honored For Career Achievements
TRICARE Senior Enlisted Advisors Website Created
HealthWatch: Celebrate the Fourth, But With Safety in Mind
-usn-

Federal Officials Announce Anthrax Vaccine Policy
WASHINGTON, DC - Officials from the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services announced today the highlights of a coordinated effort to react to possible, future anthrax incidents.
The coordinated efforts of the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies call for of the vaccine for certain service members, and for the stockpiling of both antibiotics and FDA-approved anthrax vaccine for civilians.
"Given the deadly events of last fall and what we know of the threat of anthrax as a bioweapon," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, "we are taking action to provide protection to those servicemembers who are at greatest risk, and also to share available vaccine supplies with the Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies to address possible domestic use situations. This policy coordinates and balances both civil and military needs."
Although anthrax poses an extremely lethal threat, events have shown that antibiotics have provided effective treatment if exposure is known before symptoms have appeared. Accordingly, the policy will focus on reserving stockpiles of the vaccine for emergency situations, to be used in combination with antibiotics after possible exposure. For military servicemembers in higher threat areas of the world, the vaccine will offer an additional layer of protection.
Details for the policy for domestic use are being

coordinated with the Office of Homeland Security. The military policy will require mandatory protective vaccination of some troops who will be assigned to certain higher-threat areas. "Our policy for military servicemembers will focus the use of the vaccine for those at highest risk," said Wolfowitz.

"Anthrax vaccine is a critical component in our arsenal against bioterrorism and stockpiling the vaccine is the most prudent course for protecting our citizens' health and well-being," said Deputy HHS Secretary Claude Allen. "In the meantime, HHS is aggressively pursuing efforts to develop new vaccines and diagnostic tools for the disease agents most likely to be used in a bioterrorism attack, including anthrax."

HHS, DoD and other federal agencies are working vigorously to develop a new generation anthrax vaccine that is expected to offer a more user-friendly regimen than the current vaccine which requires six shots with yearly boosters. Currently, there has been strong interest from industry to develop and produce an improved vaccine, requiring fewer doses, in just a few years.

BioPort Corp., Lansing, Mich., is the only U.S. manufacturer of the anthrax vaccine. The vaccine has been licensed by the Food and Drug Administration since 1970, and due to facility and processing renovations, BioPort has undergone recent FDA review. In January of this year the FDA approved BioPort's facilities and vaccine manufacturing processes. The Department of Defense, working in coordination with other federal agencies, plans to buy the entire production output of the sole U.S. manufacturer to maximize the level of protection and treatment possible for all of our citizens.

Regarding the safety and effectiveness of the anthrax vaccine, the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine released a March 2002 report that stated, "As indicated by evidence from studies in both humans and animals, the committee concluded that AVA (the anthrax vaccine), as licensed, is an effective vaccine to protect humans against anthrax, including inhalational anthrax. Moreover, because the vaccine exerts its protection via an antigen crucial to the action of the bacterium's toxins, AVA should be effective against anthrax toxicity from all known strains of *B. anthracis*, as well as from any potential bio-engineered strains."

For more information on the Defense Department Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program on the Web, see www.anthrax.osd.mil/.

-usn-

Navy Surgeon General: "Anthrax Vaccine Safe and Best Option For Protection"

The Departments of Defense and Health and Human Services announced today, June 28, that immunization against anthrax for selected service members and civilians will resume to provide the best line of defense against possible exposure.

We in Navy Medicine will have the responsibility of ensuring it is administered correctly to Sailors, Marines and others under our healthcare umbrella who might be exposed to anthrax. As with all vaccines, they should be advised about possible side effects. And, women who are pregnant should be cautioned not to receive the anthrax immunization.

We will also be responsible for carrying the message that the anthrax vaccine is safe and effective. It has a 30-year, proven-safe track record, and produces fewer side effects than many commonly used vaccines. There have been at least 18 human studies to assess the safety and effectiveness of anthrax vaccinations, including a comprehensive, peer-reviewed report by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine released in March 2002. Without exception, each has come to the same conclusion: The vaccine is safe and effective.

Protecting our Sailors and Marines from anthrax infection by immunizing them is the most effective and safest option available to keep them fit to fight and win. I urge all in Navy Medicine to review the information at DoD's Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program website, www.anthrax.mil, as well as newly released guidance. This will ensure we have the information and advice necessary for the Line community that will turn to us to address concerns that might arise about the vaccine's use and safety.

-usn-

Muddy Boots In Place of Honor at Gulfport Medical Clinic
By LT Jonathan Deinard, MSC, Branch Medical Clinic
Gulfport, Miss., and Rod Duren, Naval Hospital Pensacola,
Fla.

GULFPORT, Miss - Muddy boots and a camouflage Seabee blouse now have a place of honor at Naval Hospital Pensacola's Branch Medical Clinic in Gulfport recently.

Gulfport is home to the Naval Construction Training Center, where hundreds of Seabees train annually for worldwide deployment.

The glass-encased boots and blouse were unveiled by Pensacola's Commanding Officer, CAPT Richard L. Buck, MC, as a symbol of Navy Medicine's mission of Force Health Protection.

"Whenever the (Navy) Surgeon General discusses our mission, he uses a pair of muddy boots to illustrate the four aspects of Force Health Protection," said Buck.

"The first (aspect) is filling those muddy boots

with hyper-fit, hyper-healthy Sailors and Marines," he continued. "The second is (Navy medical personnel) deploying with those muddy boots and treating those who fill them wherever they are. The third is treating the family members of those who fill those muddy boots. The fourth is treating our retirees and their families, those who served this country by filling those muddy boots and the family members who supported them while they did."

Muddy boots and the Force Health Protection they represent are also getting a place of honor on staff members at Naval Hospital Pensacola and its 11 clinics. Staff identification badges have a pair of muddy boots next to their photo.

Buck was at the clinic for a change of charge where CDR Gary L. Baker, MSC, relieved LCDR John Hartsell, MSC, as the officer in charge of the clinic.

-usn-

Navy Medicine Researcher Wins Atlantic Fleet Pistol Championship

NORFOLK, Va. - CAPT Trevor Jones' keen eye and steady hand won him the Navy's Atlantic Fleet Pistol Championship for 2002.

Jones, a Medical Service Corps officer who is a researcher with Naval Medical Research Center's malaria vaccine development program, also won the Don Hamilton medal at the competition. The medal is given to the top Atlantic and Pacific pistol shooters.

Jones competed against more than 200 participants. Contestants fire 100 rounds over two days with a service pistol during the competition.

Jones also won the pistol and rifle aggregate competition - his scores in the pistol and rifle matches combined were tops in the competition.

Jones was a shooter in high school, but didn't compete until he joined the Navy.

"When I came in the Navy, I ran into some people who shoot competitively," he said. They got him interested, and he's been participating in competitions since 1985.

As the Atlantic Fleet winner, Jones recently competed at the Interservice Rifle and Pistol Competition at Fort Benning, Ga. He finished first of eight Navy competitors, and will compete in the U.S. National Pistol Championships in Camp Perry, Ohio next month.

Also competing in the Atlantic Fleet competition was CAPT Jeff Demski, MC, of Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, Groton, Conn. Demski, a first time competitor, won a bronze in the rifle competition and was the highest scoring new competitor.

-usn-

Navy Doc Helps Recover Civil War's Monitor

By Robert A. Hamilton, The Day, Groton, Conn.

GROTON - When he was a boy, LT Eric Harris, MC, learned about the Civil War-era Navy ship Monitor in history class, and had a comic book that illustrated the famous battle between the Monitor and Merrimack off Hampton Roads, Va., in March 1862.

"The thought of these amazing ironclad ships just slugging it out was really fascinating to me as a kid," Harris said. "They're basically tanks in the water."

Now Harris, a diving medical officer and scientist at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory in Groton, will play a part in the recovery of the last large pieces of the Monitor about 20 miles off the coast of North Carolina, where it sank Dec. 31, 1862, in a severe storm, with the loss of 20 men.

He will be on hand to provide emergency medical care in the event of an accident. Deep-sea diving entails a lot of risk, from injuries related to using heavy equipment underwater, to compression sickness, caused when some of the gases that are breathed on the deep dives come out as bubbles in the body tissues.

"The Monitor is a piece of history," Harris said. "The idea of being involved with the recovery of such a significant part of our Navy history is pretty intriguing."

The ship was constructed in 1861, launched in January 1862, and commissioned the following month. It sank the following December in storm as it headed for Beaufort, N.C. The site around the shipwreck was designated the first National Marine Sanctuary in 1975.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which administers the sanctuary, determined in the early 1990s that the Monitor hull was in danger of collapse, and it began a joint project with the Navy to recover the wreck and preserve it. Navy Medicine, the Navy's Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 based in Little Creek, Va., the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, Va., and other organizations have supported the effort.

Over the next several weeks, the Navy dive team will oversee the most ambitious recovery project yet, to bring up the 150-ton gun turret and two 11-inch Dahlgren cannons. They will be sent to the Mariner's Museum in August, where they will undergo an electrochemical preservation process expected to take 5-10 years.

Harris, a native of Logan, Utah, joined the Navy 14 years ago when he was a year out of high school. He jokes that his decision was based on the fact that when he called all the service recruiters in his hometown, the Navy was the only one that called back.

He enlisted as a corpsman, or medical assistant, and was later selected to receive a commission and attend the Uniformed Services University of the Health

Sciences at Bethesda, where he earned an M.D. degree in 1999, then did a one-year surgical internship in San Diego, six months with the Navy's commando unit in Coronado, Calif., and then for training as a diving medical officer.

While he was attending dive school, another student, LT Julianna Keck, MC, got word that she was picked as the diving medical officer for the diving unit in Virginia that would oversee the Monitor recovery.

"We had talked about the project quite a bit, and everyone was a little jealous that she got the assignment," Harris said. But the other officers were soon busy with their own job. He was picked to go to the research laboratory, where he is studying bone density in submariners who make extended undersea deployments. He hopes to do a residency as an orthopedic surgeon next year.

But his connection to Keck paid off this year, when he got a call asking if he could be one of the diving officers on the project next week. The Navy is rotating diving medical officers through the assignment all summer.

"They want to provide an opportunity for as many DMOs as possible, and it's difficult for any DMO to leave an assignment for more than a week," Harris said.

Though he won't get a chance to dive on the wreck himself, he'll spend a lot of time watching the operation through video monitors so he can be ready in the event of an emergency, he said with a grin.

"It is going to be frustrating to be that close," he added. "I would love to have the chance to go down and see the wreck myself. But I have a very important job to do topside."

-usn-

Editor's note: The Day has granted Navy Medicine reprint privileges of this story providing byline information is intact.

-usn-

Navy Medicine's Lockette Is Wilkins Award Recipient

WASHINGTON, DC - Navy Medicine's Dr. Warren Lockette of Naval Special Warfare Command in San Diego is the Navy's winner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Roy Wilkins Service Award.

The award is presented annually to members from each branch of the Armed Forces who have supported the NACCP's principal objective of ensuring political, educational, social, and economic equality of minority citizens of the U.S.

Lockette has promoted diversity within the Naval Special Warfare Command and throughout the Navy. He is an active participant in the minority access to research careers program and currently serves as a co-director

for an urban-based program to detect early heart disease with in the African-American community. He also volunteers his time to provide free care to the Logan Heights Medical Clinic in San Diego, which services a primarily Hispanic community.

-usn-

Bethesda Nurse Honored For Career Achievements
By JO2 Ellen Maurer, National Naval Medical Center
Bethesda

BETHESDA, Md. - CAPT Ginny Beeson, NC, chief of nursing staff at the National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, is the recipient of the Navy Nurse Corps Association's RADM Alene B. Duerk award.

The prestigious award is named for RADM Alene Duerk, NC, director of the Navy Nurse Corps, in the 1960s, who spot promoted to flag rank and became the Navy's first female flag officer. It is given annually to active duty or Reserve Nurse Corps members who have provided significant contributions to the Navy, to nursing and to the NNCA.

Beeson was recognized for her numerous achievements over her almost-30-year-career.

-usn-

TRICARE Senior Enlisted Advisors Website Created

Army Sgt. Maj. Harry Robinson Jr., Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Executive Director, TRICARE Management Activity, has established a TRICARE website especially for military senior enlisted advisors.

The site was developed to open lines of communication and provide senior enlisted advisors with the most up-to-date information on issues of enlisted personnel and hot topics within the Military Healthcare System (MHS).

The website is located at www.tricare.osd.mil/sgm/.

-usn-

HealthWatch: Celebrate the Fourth, But With Safety
In Mind

By Aveline V. Allen, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Celebrating Independence Day takes on a special meaning in the aftermath of Sept. 11. If you decide to have a private fireworks display rather than go to one in your community, it's is important to celebrate safely and carefully.

The Naval Safety Center recommends the following helpful tips to make sure you and your family have a safe and enjoyable July Fourth holiday.

Check to make sure fireworks are legal in your state, so if you decide to have your own fireworks display, it will be legitimate.

"Check local ordinances for firework type limitations," said Russell Miller, fire safety data

manager at the Naval Safety Center, Norfolk, Va. "Also check with your local government to see if there are any permits that may be required by the police department, fire department, and other regulatory departments."

In addition to local community and state laws regarding fireworks, there are certain factors you should be aware of to ensure safety in and around your home during this holiday.

"Before using any fireworks, read and follow all warning instructions printed on the label," said Miller. "Sparklers, which many people consider to be a safe firework for the young, burn at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing."

Miller recommends that fireworks be lighted in an open area far away from homes, dry leaves and flammable materials. Make sure other people are not nearby before you light them, and don't light them in a container. Store fireworks in a dry, cool place and check the packaging for specific storage instructions. Dispose of fireworks as directed by your local state law, and be cautious of mail order or make-your-own fireworks kits, which can sometimes be dangerously explosive.

According to the Naval Safety Center, several factors may contribute to firework injuries. Fireworks ignited by someone else injure many pre-school age children. Some of the more common fireworks among children under five years include rocket-type fireworks and small firecrackers.

Older children may be injured when they light fireworks themselves. One firework, called a ground spinner, is often responsible for injuries in children five to 14 years old. Large, illegal firecrackers are often the cause of injuries in older teenagers and adults.

Commands that plan on using fireworks to celebrate the July Fourth holiday must adhere to specific naval instructions. All commercial vendors must prepare, handle and operate all fireworks according to NAVSEA Publication OP-5, Volume 1, Page 2-8, paragraph 2-1.11.1, according to the Naval Safety Center, and vendors must be licensed under local and state laws. However, The Chief of Naval Operations may grant exceptions to this policy.

For additional information on fireworks safety, see the Naval Safety Center website at

www.safetycenter.navy.mil/ashore/recreation/safetybriefs/fireworksbrief.htm.

-usn-

Got news? MEDNEWS is a compendium of Navy Medicine stories distributed weekly. Information contained in MEDNEWS is not necessarily endorsed by BUMED, nor should it be considered official Navy policy. It's distributed

to Sailors and Marines, their families, civilian employees, and retired Navy and Marine Corps families. Further distribution is encouraged. Stories may be localized as desired.

Stories with photos (if available) are posted in the BUMED Intranet and Navy Medicine Internet within 24 hours of this e-mail.

Comments, ideas and articles for MEDNEWS are welcome - it's your chance to let the Navy Medicine community know what you are doing. Contact Jan Davis, MEDNEWS editor, at JaKDavis@us.med.navy.mil; telephone 202 762-3218, DSN 762-3218, or fax 202 762-3224.